

THE DEAF-MUTES' JOURNAL (published by the New York Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb, at W 163d Street and Ft. Washington Avenue, is issued every Thursday. It is the best paper for deaf-mutes published. It contains the latest news and correspondence; the best writers contribute to it.

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"He's true to God who's true to man:
Wherever wrong is done
To the humblest and the weakest
'Nash the all-beholding sun,
That wrong is also done to us,
And they are slaves most base,
Whose love of right is for themselves,
And not for all the race."

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DURING the month of August the Goodyear Rubber Plant at Akron has been featured in the newspapers in connection with its so-called "Silent workmen." They are sadly dwindled in number when contrasted with the aggregate of five hundred deaf-mutes employed by that big industrial plant two or three years ago. Still there are quite a few deaf-mutes in the employ of the Goodyear Co. today. The mere announcement that "twenty-four deaf and dumb workmen were graduated from the Flying Squadron" recently, amply proves that the "silents" have not been eradicated from the great plant at Akron. Conditions previous to the war would make twenty-four deaf-mutes in one establishment seem extraordinarily large, and the additional fact that they are now all-around workmen is quite a fine compliment to them. As we understand it, the Flying Squadron men can work efficiently at any or all of the operations required in transforming the crude material into the finished product. They are the men called in to speed up and fill gaps in emergencies that may arise in the various departments of the plant. They are registered and paid as superior workmen—men who are dependable and capable. That is fine for them; and what is better still, the company regards them as superior to most of the thousands of hearing workmen who are in its employ.

One of the high officials says of these Master Rubber Workers: "In the case of the 'Silents,' the remarkable thing is that they have been able to absorb and hold in their minds the intricate details of hundreds of operations connected with the manufacture of tires, tubes, soles and heels, belts, hose and other rubber products."

No Cause for Complaint.

EDITOR JOURNAL:—In your valued paper of August 4th, Mr. F. R. Gray by blanket innuendo charges the National Association of the Deaf with discrimination against Roman Catholics. He mentions no names, cites no specific instance, gives no particular location of the trouble, and does not definitely fix the responsibility. His statement is supposed to leave the reader in a highly bewildered and thoroughly frightened state of mind, not knowing which way to turn either to apply a remedy or to escape some impending catastrophe. On second thought, however, the reader rightly concludes that there is nothing the matter with the N. A. D., that there has been no discrimination, and therefore no cause for complaint.

In the JOURNAL of September 1st, Mr. Gray returns to the subject in the same indefinite and hearsay manner. He says that a couple of months after the Detroit Convention, he was shown a private letter in which the writer stated several instances of discrimination. The writer is not named, the instances are not specified. Of what value is such testimony? Mr. Gray says that the writer of the private letter claims to have done much to make the Detroit Convention a success,

and that he believed he would be invited to address the assembly, and was prepared to do so, but was not even mentioned. This is another of the characteristically vague accusations that have either originated with Mr. Gray or have been given added currency by him. Who was the writer of the private letter? What did he do to make the Detroit Convention a success? About what was he prepared to address the convention? In what manner and by whom was he ignored? Accusations to have any value must be specific. Mr. Gray says that no Roman Catholic priest had a chance to speak at the Detroit Convention, although ministers of other denominations spoke several times. No Roman Catholic priest asked for an opportunity to address the convention at Detroit. No one as much as suggested that any Roman Catholic priest be invited to address the convention. A suggestion of that nature would gladly have been granted at such time as the program permitted. I do not recall having seen a Roman Catholic priest in convention hall at Detroit at any time. I looked in vain for one to give the opening invocation. Ministers of other denominations were present at Detroit, and took an active part in the convention proceedings, which as members of the Association they had a perfect right to do, but they did not refer to religious matters, nor did they unduly monopolize the floor, as a glance at the official proceedings will show. Among the hundreds in attendance at Detroit fewer than ten of the ministers were other than Roman Catholic priests. They took their places in the body of the convention hall along with other members of the convention, and they had to exert themselves in order to gain recognition by the chair the same as any other member. Mr. Gray says that Father Kaufman fought energetically to aid the convention but was ignored. By whom was he ignored? In what manner? Surely any service rendered by Father Kaufman, or any one else, was appreciated by all who were cognizant of it.

Mr. Gray refers me to the files of a certain little heard of and less seen denominational paper published somewhere in New York, for further substantiation of his charges of discrimination against Roman Catholics. That is an entirely useless procedure. If the paper is worth referring to all in this connection it should be worth quoting, especially if Mr. Gray believes what the paper says, as his solemn reference to it seems to imply. Quotations would save the readers of the JOURNAL the time and expense of a trip to New York to consult the back files of the denominational paper, since quite a few, myself included, do not subscribe for it, and receive no complimentary or marked copies.

Mr. Gray gives further currency to the time-worn and groundless charge that Mr. J. F. Donnelly attended the Cleveland Convention of the N. A. D., in 1913, "on invitation of the Chairman of the Cleveland Committee," but was ignored in convention. "Chairman of the Cleveland Committee" is a bit indefinite. There were several committees at the Cleveland Convention each having its own chairman. Which one was it? Who was its chairman? That Mr. Donnelly was not ignored at the Cleveland Convention may be surmised by the following excerpt from the official proceedings, pages 39 and 40.

"Pres. Hanson: Mr. J. F. Donnelly, of New York, will speak for the Knights of De l'Epee."

"Last summer, when the Knights of De l'Epee met in convention in New York, they delegated me to represent them and convey their good wishes to the N. A. D. The Knights is an organization of deaf men patterned after the Knights of Columbus. From its foundation four years ago in Chicago, the Knights of De l'Epee has steadily grown in members and popularity. It has the endorsement of priests who are interested in the welfare of the deaf. It has been said that the organization is opposing other societies of the deaf; this is untrue. The society extends the hand of fellowship and goodwill to all other societies of the deaf. No society can claim to have been of more benefit than our society. It is well understood that whatever benefits a certain class of the deaf benefits all the other deaf."

"Permit me again to assure you that the Knights of De l'Epee wish this convention every success possible, and in every good work for the general good of the deaf, it will be found that the Knights individually and collectively will lend all the assistance in their power, ever bearing in mind the saying of the great Lincoln: 'With charity for all; malice towards none'"

All charges of discrimination are on par with the Donnelly case—without foundation in fact. That the N. A. D. is becoming more and more sectarian, is the height of the ridiculous.

We all know that at conventions the floor is sometimes obtained, or requested, at an inopportune time, for the discussion of a subject proper in itself, and that sometimes matter irrelevant to the subject under discussion is brought forward, thereby forcing the chairman in either case to the unpleasant duty of ruling the speaker as being "out of order."

There is the ever present remedy of an appeal, which if not invoked leaves no reasonable ground for future complaint. A man who goes to convention with a chip on his shoulders, is likely to have it dislodged without over nice ceremony or unnecessary delay. Such an occurrence, unfortunately for him, may give him the obsession that everything was for him a preconceived and intentional personal affront, because of one or more of his possibly several affiliations. If he happens to own a newspaper, his fancied affront becomes an unfailing source of future editorial inspiration for himself, and of delusion to the readers of his paper, while the ever present and conveniently located wastebasket effectually shuts off efforts to set matters right.

JAMES H. CLOUD,
President N. A. D.
St. Louis, Sept. 5.

ILLINOIS.

THE TWELFTH TRIENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF.

In Springfield, Illinois, Wednesday, August 10th, 1921, was marked by the arrivals now and then of deaf people, single and in groups, from all over the State and even from out of State. Over the street crossing in front of St. Nicholas Hotel stretched a large sign, bearing the words: "Welcome! I. A. D. Headquarters of the Twelfth Convention of the Illinois Association of the Deaf, August 10-14." In the evening we, the deaf visitors, gathered in the parlors of this hotel for an informal reception. The proprietor of the hotel was quick to show this hospitality by treating us to delicious ice cream in the hotel's swell cafe.

The next morning we filled the Senate Chamber of the historic old State House. At nine o'clock Mr. A. J. Rodenberger, President of the Association, pounded his fist on the speaker's stand, and thus began the opening session of the Convention. Of course, President Rodenberger should have used a gavel instead of his fist, but the gavel was missing—perhaps the Chairman took it home when the last session of the Legislature adjourned.

The Rev. Dr. P. J. Hasenstab gave the invocation.

Hon. Len Small, Governor of Illinois; Hon. E. J. Smith, Acting Mayor of Springfield; Mr. C. E. Jenks, Secretary of Chamber of Commerce; and Mr. Jefferson Sides, Chairman of Local Committee, were in the order named on the program to give addresses of welcome. Because of pressing duties Gov. Small and Mayor Smith were unable to be present. They, however, gave their addresses in the form of messages, which were read to the Convention by the secretary.

The Governor in his message expressed keen interest in the Association and asserted emphatically his appreciation of the Association's usefulness and objects. Mayor Smith's message contained mainly praise for the Association.

Mr. Jenks

OHIO.

[News items for this column may be sent to our Ohio News Bureau, care of Mr. A. B. Greener, 924 Franklin Ave., Columbus, O.]

September 10, 1921.—Up in Hancock County recorders may come and go, no matter which party carries an election, but Preston L. Stevenson stays in. He is a deaf man, and has been in a recorder's office for nearly thirty-five years. The first few years in Hardin County, and afterwards in Hancock County. For a number of years, he has been chief deputy, which means he runs the office in the absence of the recorder. He is familiar with the duties of the office, and it is not a backwoods county, where little business of recording real estate is made, but a large flourishing one. He is totally deaf, nor can he talk. All business with patrons of the office he carries on in writing. Almost every body in Findlay, and as well of the County, knows the smiling Preston.

We clip the following from the *Morning Republican* of August 31st. County Recorder-elect A. B. Crozier yesterday announced the names of his deputies, who will be associated with him when he takes office next Tuesday.

Preston L. Stevenson, for nearly 35 years a deputy in the recorder's office will be retained as chief deputy by Mr. Crozier, while Miss Julia Crozier, a daughter of the incoming official, will also be a deputy in the office.

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